

IV. REMARKS

1. Claims 1, 3-9, and 11-17 remain in the application. Claims 2 and 10 have been cancelled without prejudice. Claims 1, 5, 9, and 14-17 have been amended.
2. Page 13, lines 3-17 of the specification have been amended to remove the reference numbers.
3. Claim 14 has been amended to overcome the 35 USC 101, rejection.
4. Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1 and 5 are not anticipated by Crowley (US 5,193,727) under 35 USC 102(b).

Crowley fails to disclose or suggest transporting the information device with the printed media from an online printing/copying system where the printing operations occur to a separate offline post processing system where the post processing occurs, as recited by claim 1.

Crowley is directed to a system that incorporates post production operations in the production of a continuous stream of images upon a web. In the rejection of claim 2, the Examiner properly points out that Crowley fails to disclose or suggest transporting the information device with the printed media.

At least for these reasons, Applicants submit that Crowley does not anticipate independent claim 1 and dependent claim 5.

5. Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1 is patentable over the combination of Crowley and Murata (US 7,054,028) under 35 USC 103(a).

Claim 1 includes the limitations of cancelled claim 2.

The combination of Crowley and Murata fails to disclose or suggest transporting the information device with the printed media from an online printing/copying system where

the printing operations occur to a separate offline post processing system where the post processing occurs, as recited by claim 1.

As mentioned above, the Examiner properly points out that Crowley fails to disclose or suggest transporting the information device with the printed media. Applicant respectfully submits that Murata also fails to disclose or suggest this feature. Murata describes image data of a document prepared in an external computer and output control data are stored in a memory card. By installing this memory card in a digital copying machine, the digital copying machine prints the image data read out from the memory card offline in a desired output form. This is clearly not the same as transporting the information device with the printed media. Murata only discloses printing the image data read out from the memory card, and has nothing related to transporting the information device with the printed media.

Column 3, lines 15-35, cited by the Examiner, describes a digital copying machine with a reader, printer, controller, sorter and finisher, but fails to disclose transporting an information device with post processing instructions for printed media, with printed media.

Column 10, lines 34-49, cited by the Examiner, describes storing image data and output control information into a removable storage medium and printing the stored image data on another computer. There is nothing in this portion or anywhere else in Murata related to transporting an information device having post processing instructions for printed media, with the printed media.

At least for these reasons, the combination of Crowley and Murata fails to disclose or suggest all the features of claim 1 and therefore fails to render independent claim 1 and dependent claim 5 unpatentable.

6. Applicants respectfully submit that claims 3 and 4 are patentable over the combination of Crowley and Webster et al. (US 5,559,606, "Webster") under 35 USC 103(a).

Claims 3 and 4 depend from claim 1.

The combination of Crowley and Webster fails to disclose or suggest transporting the information device with the printed media from an online printing/copying system where the printing operations occur to a separate offline post processing system where the post processing occurs, as recited by claim 1.

As pointed out by the Examiner, Crowley fails to disclose or suggest transporting the information device with the printed media. Webster fails to supply this missing feature. Webster discloses an electronic image processing apparatus that is dynamically configurable. There is no disclosure in Webster related to transporting an information device with printed media.

Therefore, the combination of Crowley and Webster fails to render claims 3 and 4 unpatentable.

7. Applicants respectfully submit that claims 6, 9, and 11-13 are patentable over the combination of Murata and Webster under 35 USC 103(a).

The combination of Murata and Webster fails to disclose or suggest transporting the information device with the printed media to an offline post processing system, as recited by claim 6.

Webster is silent with respect to transporting an information device. As argued above, Murata only discloses storing image data and control information on a removable storage medium and printing the stored images on another device. Murata does not disclose transporting an information device having post processing instructions for printed media, with the printed media.

The combination of Murata and Webster fails to disclose or suggest a holding device for conveying the printed media and the information device together from the online printing/copying operation to the offline post processing operation, as recited by claim 9.

Webster has no disclosure related to such a holding device. As argued above, Murata has no disclosure related to conveying printed media together with an information device having post processing instructions for the printed media.

At least for these reasons independent claims 6 and 9 and dependent claims 11-13 are patentable over the combination of Murata and Webster.

8. Applicants respectfully submit that claims 7 and 8 are patentable over the combination of Murata, Webster and Crowley under 35 USC 103(a).

Claims 7 and 8 depend from claim 6.

The combination of Murata, Webster and Crowley fails to disclose or suggest transporting the information device with the printed media to an offline post processing system, as recited by claim 6.

Each of the references have been addressed above and none disclose or suggest this feature.

Therefore, the combination of Murata, Webster and Crowley fails to render claims 7, 8, and 10 unpatentable.

9. Applicants respectfully submit that claims 14, 16, and 17 are patentable over the combination of Murata and Crowley under 35 USC 103(a).

Claim 14 is directed to subject matter similar to the other independent claims. For the reasons argued above, neither Murata nor Crowley disclose or suggest transporting an information device having post processing instructions for printed media together with the printed media.

Therefore, the combination of Murata and Crowley fails to render independent claim 14 and dependent claims 16 and 17 unpatentable.

10. Applicants respectfully submit that claim 15 is patentable over the combination of Murata, Crowley and Webster under 35 USC 103(a).

Claim 15 depends from Claim 14.

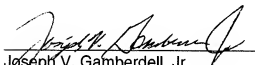
The combination of Murata, Crowley and Webster fails to disclose or suggest transporting an information device having post processing instructions for printed media. Each reference has been discussed above and none disclose this feature.

Therefore, the combination of Murata, Crowley and Webster fails to render claim 15 unpatentable.

For all of the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims now present in the application are clearly novel and patentable over the prior art of record, and are in proper form for allowance. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested. Should any unresolved issues remain, the Examiner is invited to call Applicants' attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment for any fees associated with this communication or credit any over payment to Deposit Account No. 24-0037.

Respectfully submitted,


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